



# COMMANDO

Any Time, Any Place

Vol. 55, Issue 9

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

March 3, 2006

## CSAR moves from AFSOC to ACC

Courtesy Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** – Administrative control for select active-duty Air Force combat search and rescue assets is transferring from Air Force Special Operations Command to Air Combat Command.

"Our military must always have the combat capability to rescue its people ... our warriors ... wherever and whenever required," said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff. "I've given ACC, (Pacific Air Forces) and AFSOC commanders 30 days to develop a transition plan."

This change ensures this critical Air Force capability is directly linked to the combat air forces and the personnel they support, thus consolidating the management of limited Air Force resources. Under ACC, these assets can be mobilized faster during a national crisis, integrated into combat training and tasked to support all air and space expeditionary force rotations.

Assets affected by this realignment include the HC-130P/N and HH-60G Pave Hawk aircraft and most of the combat rescue officers and pararescuemen. Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Air Forces in Europe active-duty units will remain separate from this action.

Except for PACAF, Guard and Reserve units will remain under administrative control to their respective units until they have been mobilized, at which time they will become ACC units.

This change will be transparent to the affected commanders. They will continue to gain personnel recovery capability through the joint forces air component commander as they have before.

## ORE tests wing ability to deploy

by Master Sgt. Stuart Camp  
Superintendent,  
public affairs

Air Commandos began mobilizing Tuesday during an operational readiness exercise.

The multi-day exercise is measuring the 16th Special Operations Wing's ability to process passengers and cargo, generate aircraft and operate from a forward location.

The entire scenario is being played out on Hurlburt Field.

This is the fifth exercise in the build-up to the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection, but the first for linking the initial response and employment phase together in consecutive days.



Airman 1st Class Cynthia Morrow  
Senior Airman Jon Reed,  
16th Civil Engineering  
Squadron, checks the  
contents of his A-bag.

Exercises to this point have focused on the mobilization or down-range employment and, according to senior officials, more exercises are scheduled to build to the ORI crescendo.

"We are in the fast-walk stage (of development)," said Lt. Col Daniel Gard, 16th SOW Inspector General office.

ORE participants met in the base theater last week for an orientation to the "rules of engagement" and purpose of the exercise.

"Our wing is already engaged in combat operations in central command area of responsibility," said 16th SOW Vice Commander Col. Paul Harmon. "The goal is training to fight and win."

"We'll demonstrate to the IG team in June that America's Air Commandos are prepared to deploy and fight 'any time, any place.'"

Activities, including use of the 'Giant Voice' broadcast system, will deviate from the normal activities at Hurlburt and might continue into the late evening. There are no expected changes to normal traffic in or out of the base.



Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek  
Staff Sgt. Ralph Nehring and Capt. Steve Maile, 16th Operation Support Squadron, set up the Davis Tactical Weather Observing Station during an exercise Wednesday. The exercise is in preparation for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection.

### News

823rd RED HORSE Squadron Airman convicted on child abuse charges

### News

Behind the badge: a look into the 16th Security Forces Squadron blotter is back!

### Feature



Operation Thursday history

### Sports



720th OSS dominates Fit Eagle

### Wingman



0 Drinks under 21  
0 DUIs  
1 Drink an hour  
3 Drinks a night

### Weather

	High Low	
Today	69	57
Sat.	64	43
Sun.	69	46

Home of America's Air Commandos

# Airmen step forward when needs arise

by Lt. Col. Daniel Zook  
8th SOS commander

One of the more unpleasant tasks I have had to carry out over these last four and half years has been to inform someone while we're deployed that they aren't going to go home when they thought they were. We're all well aware that this happens fairly frequently and has a ripple effect with the families back home. However, in every case, this news was taken very professionally, because each of us understands that there is no Air Force role more important in the Global War on Terrorism than that of special operations.

Many of us have deployed extensively since 9/11 and, undoubtedly, we will continue to do so during this dramatic time in our nation's history. These are "SOF-centric" wars, and they require our unique capabilities. Your efforts continue to make a significant difference.

Another unfortunate task that

## Aimpoint

### Take best care of our wingmen, families and resources

many commanders have to accomplish is delivering news from home of such a magnitude that it requires the quick return home of one of our troops. It is always both amazing and comforting to me to see that every single time this has happened – whether the member is a support troop, a maintainer or an operator – that his comrades encircle, support, assist and make sure that Air Force Special Operations Command warrior is OK. Shortly afterwards, I am always approached by several folks who volunteer to stay or do whatever it takes to make sure the troop gets home ASAP. That this has never failed to happen is one of the reasons I love being part of this community.

Although the concept of being a wingman to each other sounds new, it is a concept that we have always embraced in special operations – not just within the Air Force, but with all of our Army and Navy SOF brethren.

Instead of trying to come up with something new, we simply need to expand what we have always done. Don't just look out for one another getting the mission done – do it in every aspect of what it takes to get that mission done.

Being a good wingman is nothing new to us in AFSOC. We just need to apply it to everything we do – on duty and off, at home and deployed. Our operations tempo takes a toll on our people – watch for signs of stress and the way folks choose to deal with that stress. There's nothing wrong with blowing off a little steam. Let's just make sure we look out for each other so we all stay out of the "no fly zone." Know what that is. We'll all be

See **AIRMAN**, Page 12

## Open Line

### Recycling in Commando Village

I take recycling seriously at home. This morning while getting my kids ready for school, I noticed that the garbage man was picking up my recyclables that were outside the recycle bin. Being concerned, I let them know it was meant to be recycled.

One man told me that there wasn't a lot of room on the recycling truck, while the other person's response was that it wasn't cost effective for the truck to make several trips. About 30 minutes later I saw the recycling truck with hardly anything in it. My effort of saving a week's worth of recyclables seems to be a waste of time and garage space to me. If Commando Village has too much recycling, why not schedule a second truck on a different day to pick up? Or to ensure we our getting our recyclables to the right place, schedule it on a differ-

All Open Lines, questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community, are seen by the 16th Special Operations Wing commander.

To submit an Open Line, call 884-OPEN (6736) or e-mail your concerns to [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil) with your name, unit and telephone number. Open Lines of general interest will be printed

ent day than when trash is picked up.

### Response provided by 16th Mission Support Group

Thank you for your concern about the recycling program and also thank you for putting forth such a great effort to recycle.

We believe your situation was an anomaly. We have followed the refuse/recycling contractor on numerous inspections and they normally handle recyclables properly, picking them up with separate trucks.

We have brought your concerns to the contractor, and they will keep an eye out for any workers not performing up to standards. We don't expect this unfortunate event to reoccur. We're glad housing residents make the effort to recycle. Keep up the great work. Call the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron Maintenance Engineering at 884-6683 if this happens again.

in the **COMMANDO**. Others will be answered by a phone call. Remember, the quickest, most efficient way to solve a problem is to contact the organization directly.

somewhere else.

**Literature** – beware of anything that might be construed as pornographic material or illegal in certain regions.

**Food items** – many countries stringently control what you can and can't bring in, especially tobacco and alcohol.

**Gender specific laws, customs** – women and men may not be granted equal rights where you're going.

**Social customs** – learn the do's and don'ts of the host nation.

See Page 7 of the Airman's Manual for more information.

## 16th SOW Aimpoints

- Fight and win
- Take best care of our wingmen, families and resources
- Become the next generation of Air Force and Air Commando leaders

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### Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the **COMMANDO** is noon Monday for briefs the week of publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call.

### Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to the base commander for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

Other questions will be answered by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give the commander a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).

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## ORI preparation

### Host Nation Sensitivities

Learn as much as you can about where you're going before you deploy – it may be profoundly different than what you're accustomed to in the United States. Also, don't be surprised if you learn that some of your rights, freedoms and customs aren't recognized or are altogether unacceptable in some global regions. There are a lot of things to remember,

so when studying the deployment region, consider these important issues:

**Religion** – not all countries guarantee religious freedom, and displaying some religious icons may be offensive to our hosts.

**Dress and appearance** – what might seem acceptable in the United States may be offensive or even illegal

## DUI Tracker

Feb. 24 - March 2: 1 DUI

This year: 6

DUIs for 2005: 31

Last DUI: 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

### Days since last DUI:4

16th OG ... 11      16th MSG ... 27  
16th MXG ... 4      16th MDG ... 428

Totals are current as of Feb. 16.

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 127



# Gate guards thwart drugs entering base

by **Airman 1st Class James Dickens**  
Editor

US Protect gate guards have busted eight people trying to enter base possessing drugs in February alone.

"There has been a 75 percent increase in bust compared from last year at this time," said Capt. Keri Walker, 16th Security Forces Squadron operations officer.

The majority of people getting bust civilian contractors who work on base and have controlled substances in their vehicles.

"I know what signs to look for," said Sgt. Theodore Moroney, US Protect. "I have 10 busts under my belt so far this year alone."

Sergeant Moroney comes from a law enforcement background.

The guards are all given control burn training, burn-

ing of a small amount of marijuana, which helps them recognize the smell.

After guards find anything, they'll call security forces. If it's a civilian, they call the Okaloosa County Sheriffs Department.

"Okaloosa appreciates this, because these bust go against their yearly numbers," said Lt. Rick Estes, US Protect.

"When you get three entities working together like we do then maybe contractors will get the idea," said Sergeant Moroney.

"We are the first line of defense and are responsible for everyone that lives and works here."

Hurlburt Field's US Protect team is made up of more than 80 percent prior military or law enforcement.

"The rent a cop mentality has to go," said Captain Walker.



Photograph by Jamie Haig

Raymond Woods, US Protect guard, inspects a commercial vehicle Wednesday at the front gate prior to it being allowed to enter base. All commercial vehicles go through this process.

## Airman convicted on child abuse charges

by **Master Sgt. Stuart Camp**  
Superintendent, public affairs

An Airman assigned to the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron was convicted Feb. 24 of aggravated assault against his 3-year-old stepdaughter.

The three-day trial ended with the Airman, whose name is being withheld due to the nature of the offense, being sentenced by military judge Lt.

Col. Gary Jackson to 30 months confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, a reduction in grade to E-1 and a dishonorable discharge.

Originally facing two charges, the RED HORSE Airman was found not guilty on two specifications of Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice – unlawfully failing to provide medicine and medical services for the underage child, and conduct bringing

discredit upon the armed forces.

He was convicted of two specifications of assault under Article 128, Uniform Code of Military Justice, including striking the child on the head and buttocks with his feet and hands on multiple occasions, and striking the child on her stomach, back and face with force likely to produce death or grievous bodily harm on multiple occasions.

Capt. Christian Butler, 16th Special Operations Wing Legal office, prosecuted the case with assistance from Capt. Matthew Stoffel, from Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., and Capt. Ronald Spencer.

The Airman was defended by Capt. Kristine Autorino, assigned to the Hurlburt Field Area Defense Counsel, and Capt. Jason Robertson, from Keelser AFB, Miss.

## Major select promotion list

The Air Force announced the selection of 2,134 captains for promotion to major Thursday. There were 63 locals chosen. The results of the board are as follows:

**United States Air Force  
Special Operations  
School**  
Scott McIntosh  
**Air Force Special  
Operations Command**  
Christopher Larkin  
Christopher Beckman  
Thorsten Curcio  
Denise Emery  
Richard Lauer  
Donald Lowe  
Melchizedek Martinez

Jennifer Prahl  
Albert Smith  
Kevin Keicher  
**AFSOC RSS**  
Christopher Riggan  
**16th Operations Group**  
Lamont Jubeck  
**16th Aircraft  
Maintenance Squadron**  
Abigail Ruscetta  
Andrew Young  
**16th Component  
Maintenance Squadron**  
Alexander Ralston  
**16th Maintenance  
Squadron**  
Christopher Lardner  
**16th Operations Support  
Squadron**  
Jesse Acevedo

Richard Bush  
Trevor Kildare  
**3rd Special Operations  
Squadron**  
David Peck  
**4th SOS**  
Derrick Barton  
Daniel McLagan  
Bryan Paul Nelson  
Kenneth Pedersen  
Brian Thompson  
**6th SOS**  
Jerry Crigger Jr.  
Robert Reid  
Jason Self  
**8th SOS**  
Jason Humble  
**9th SOS**  
Chad Biehl  
Mark Richey

Nathan Scopac  
**15th SOS**  
David Coyle  
John Hawkins Jr.  
Kevin Martin  
Christopher Welch  
**16th SOS**  
Carl Armour  
Daniel Barker  
William Booth  
Selwyn Gay III  
Keith Nelson  
**19th SOS**  
Mitchell Johnson  
Shane Molosky  
Jeffrey Welborn  
Justin Whitson  
**20th SOS**  
Aaron Barnes  
Matthew Horin  
Paul Lawrenz  
Roy Oberhaus  
John Daniel Scott II

George Sefzik  
William Sosnowski  
**319th SOS**  
Curtis Ayers IV  
Andrew Jett  
Kevin Koenig  
**16th Communications  
Squadron**  
Erin McDonald  
**Air Force Legal Service  
Agency**  
Kristine Autorino  
**14th Weapons Squadron**  
Scott Minas  
Grant Brooke Sharpe  
**413th Flight Test  
Squadron**  
Joshua Bohnart  
**505th Communications  
Squadron**  
Noemi Antedomenico  
**705th Training Squadron**  
Damian Panajla

# Behind the badge

## Civilian contractors continue to get busted with ganja in their vehicles

by Tech. Sgt.  
Parrish Hollingsworth  
16th SFS

### Unlawful possession

On four separate occasions, a US Protect gate guard stopped illegal controlled substances from entering the installation. Each discovery was made when inspecting contractor vehicles entering the base. The Okaloosa County Sheriffs Department responded, confiscated the drugs and issued the individuals a notice to appear in court. The guard was recognized as employee of the month.

### Marijuana possession

While conducting a vehicle search at the main gate, a guard discovered a dependant son to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana. The sheriff's department responded and issued a summons to appear in court, and a no trespassing order for Hurlburt Field, and the young man was released.

### Assault and battery

Security forces received a telephone call from an Airman's mother stating her son had been assaulted in a dorm. Security Forces responded to the scene and interviewed the victim. Two airmen were apprehended as suspects and, after processing, they were released to their first sergeant.

### Drunken driving

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office notified security forces that a 4th SOS Airman had been arrested by the Florida Highway Patrol for driving under the influence. The Airman was held in jail and later released.

### Driving while impaired

A gate guard at Commando Village stopped an erratic driver in the housing area. The suspect, a dependant husband, was detained

and transported to the law enforcement desk for processing.

The suspect was cited for driving while impaired and driving on a suspended license, and he was later released to his sponsor.

### Pedestrian ran over

A 16th SF police patrol responded to an accident at Freedom Way and Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. The driver stated he was turning onto Freedom Way from Martin Luther King Blvd., didn't see a pedestrian in the road.

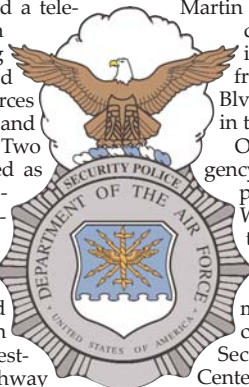
Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services transported the victim to Fort Walton Beach Hospital for treatment.

### Help Wanted

If you have any information concerning a crime please call the Security Forces Control Center at 884-7777.

### Did You Know?

Anyone riding a bicycle on base must wear a safety helmet. If riding after dark, a headlight must be used and a red reflector must be affixed to the rear of the bicycle. For more information, Call police services at 884-6185.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Mark Sixbey

An explosive ordnance disposal specialist assigned to Mobile Unit 3, Detachment 9, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, counts a stack of 82-mm recoilless rifle rounds during Operation Iron Fist in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq Feb. 25.

## Brothers In Arms

### Army

Last week, a simulated 7.5-magnitude earthquake shook Alaska, devastating much of the infrastructure. It was part of an Army Corps of Engineers' cold-weather response exercise. The exercise objectives were to better prepare the corps for possible future catastrophes and to improve responses.

### Navy

Outfitting the Sailor of the future took another step forward last week when Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen approved plans for a single working uniform for all ranks and a year-round service uniform for E-6 and below Sailors.

Based on recommendations made during a comprehensive briefing by Task Force Uniform Feb. 24, Mullen agreed to production of both a BDU-style working uniform for all Sailors E-1 to O-10 and a more practical, year-round service uniform to withstand day-to-day classroom and office-like environments where the service uniform is typically worn.

"Uniforms reflect our culture – who we are – what we stand for. I want Sailors to look like Sailors," said the CNO.

## Base engineers interact with Shalimar students

by Airman 1st Class  
James Dickens  
Editor

Hurlburt Field Airmen visited Meigs Middle School in Shalimar to give their expertise to the engineering contest held last week as part of National Engineers Week.

Nine engineers from base, members of the Society of American Military Engineers, gave presentations to the class about engineering and judged the contest.

"The program gives the students a chance to use their creative and problem solving skills," said Maj. Mark Mittler, Air Force Special Operations Command and civil engineer. "We try to get them excited about engineering."

Students from 6th grade were challenged to construct a bridge truss out of file folder weight paper to try and hold 11 pounds; 7th graders programmed a robot using computer-based software to run a

small course; 8th graders built hot air balloons out of tissue paper to see who could keep their balloon aloft the longest.

"The Society of American Military Engineers' involvement with our school through Engineers Week gives validity to our programs and allows our students to interact with the professionals of the engineering field," said Charles Place, Meigs Middle School teacher.

"I feel that it's one thing to read and talk about the engineering professions and professionals, but it is so much more meaningful when there is an opportunity to talk to the professionals about their profession."

When it was all said and done the students of Meigs Middle School had a glance at what being an engineer is all about.

"The engineers were nice, and I liked them," said Davi Roman, 6th grader. "I'm thinking about being an engineer when I grow up."



Photograph by Maj. Mark Mittler

Two eighth grade students from Meigs Middle School watch their hot air balloon rise into the air during the engineering contest last week at the school. The winning balloon stayed aloft almost 28 seconds.

## Fisher DeBerry coaches different team at National Prayer Luncheon

**2nd Lt. Amy Gonzales**  
Deputy Chief,  
public affairs

Fisher DeBerry, U.S. Air Force Academy head football coach, headlined this year's National Prayer Luncheon held at The Soundside Feb. 22.

The luncheon, which drew more than 275 people, dates back to 1943 when members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives started prayer breakfasts to discuss their spiritual needs. The idea of the meeting has spread to more than 70 countries.

The Hurlburt Field lunch-

**"The goal of the luncheon is not to push a particular religion, but to encourage spirituality."**

*Chap. (Capt.) Christian Chae*  
Hurlburt Field Chapel

eon began with little help from any "higher powers." Because lunch service was delayed, Mr. DeBerry spoke before the attendees were fed. However, Chap. (Capt.) Christian Chae, Hurlburt Field Chapel, was able to tame the hungry crowd.

"We will be spiritually fed before we are physically fed," he told them.

Mr. DeBerry's talk covered many different aspects of spirituality. His message was simple, but he relayed it through a series of anecdotes and stories from growing up in a small town.

"I didn't learn to walk until I was three-and-a-half years old," he joked. "There was just no reason to because the town was so small."

Being thankful was one way Mr. DeBerry offered as a key to spirituality.

"If you start each day with an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving, then you'll have a good day," he said.

Mr. DeBerry even related the Air Force core values to personal values.

"Aren't those great core values to live by, not only here but in every day life?" he said.

He concluded his presentation with his own message of thanks.

"Thank you for serving in our Air Force—the greatest team on the face of the

world," Mr. DeBerry told the audience.

The coach's enthusiasm and storytelling made an impression on some of the younger attendees.

"It was pretty funny," said Airman 1st Class Cristy Higginson, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. "He put real-life stories into perspective."

With a focus on developing spirituality and faith, the luncheon appealed to people of all faiths.

"The goal of the luncheon is not to push a particular religion, but to encourage spirituality," said Chaplain Chae.

ARMED FORCES COMM INC  
CS/COMMUNITY MAT  
605589  
5 X 7.00



# Wing annual award winners selected

The following people were selected for win-level annual awards:



Company grade officer

**Capt. Lance Rosa-Miranda,**  
4 Special Operations  
Squadron



Senior NCO

**Senior Master Sgt. Charles**  
**Stiefken, 23rd Special**  
**Tactics Squadron**



NCO

**Tech. Sgt. Andrea Luna,**  
16th Mission Support  
Squadron



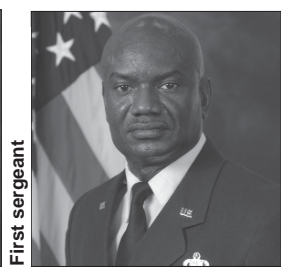
Airman

**Senior Airman Matthew**  
**Busman, 16th Special**  
**Operations Squadron**



Additional duty first sergeant

**Master Sgt. Joseph Bell,**  
15th Special Operations  
Squadron



First sergeant

**Senior Master Sgt. DeAndre**  
**Latham 16th Helicopter**  
**Maintenance Squadron**



GS 1-8

**Aaron Grindland, 16th**  
**Civil Engineer Squadron**



GS 9-12

**Robert Cohn, 16th Medical**  
**Operations Squadron**



Wage grade

**David Smart, 16th**  
**Logistics Readiness**  
**Squadron**

**SANDY SANSING NISSAN**  
**CS/CHRYSLER**  
**587246**  
**5 X 6.00**

## Month honors 'Builders of dreams, communities'

by Staff Sgt.  
Mareshah Haynes  
Commando Staff

Wednesday began the month-long women's history observance honoring women. The theme for the 2006 Women's History Month is Women: Builders of Dreams and Communities.

There are more than 207,000 women in the U.S. military, according to the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Women's history week was established in 1981.

The observance was extended to an entire month in 1987.

The purpose of the month is to recognize contributions of women to American culture.

"I think that this month will cause us to look at contributions women have made in the past and to look to the future and the impact we can have there," said Master Sgt. Tammy Wilson, co-chair of the Women's History Month committee.

Women at Hurlburt Field have made American and

military history as well. In 2002, Staff Sgt. Anissa Shero became the first Air Force woman to lose her life in Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Shero was an MC-130H loadmaster with the 15th Special Operations Squadron performing duties in Afghanistan when her plane crashed, killing her and three other passengers.

The women's history committee will be sponsoring a host of activities throughout the month of March to celebrate women like Sergeant Shero.

There will be a Women's History Month proclamation signing, women's health fair, an all-female retreat ceremony and a women's history luncheon.

Women wishing to stand formation for the all-female retreat ceremony must be in BDUs. All others are welcomed to attend the ceremony.

For more information about Women's History Month contact Senior Master Sgt. Debra Strickland at 881-3994 or Sergeant Tammy Wilson at 881-3510.

### Women's History Month events

The Hurlburt Field Women's History Month committee has arranged the following events for this year's observance:

#### Proclamation signing

There will be a Women's History Month proclamation signing at 2p.m. Wednesday in the wing conference room. The 16th Special Operations Wing Vice Commander, Col. Paul Harmon is scheduled to sign the proclamation.

#### Female retreat ceremony

There will be an all-female formation at the base flag pole Wednesday. All military, spouses, civilians and contractors are invited to attend. Females in formation must be in the uniform

of the day. Participants need to be in place by 4:45 p.m.

#### Women's health fair

The fair will be held at the Hurlburt Field Base Exchange March 14. Everyone is welcome. Displays and information will be provided by various agencies such as the health and wellness center, the American Red Cross, family support, family advocacy, women's health clinic and the base fitness centers.

#### Women's History lunch

The luncheon will be held 30 March at 11 a.m. at the Soundside. The price is \$15 for members and \$17 for non-members. Tickets will go on sale March 14.

AUDIO  
EXPRES-  
SIONS  
CS/MOBILE  
STEREO  
587692

FIRST BAP-  
TIST  
CHURCH/FW  
B  
CS/FIRST  
600626  
1 X 3.00

PRESTON HOOD CHEVRO-  
LET  
CS/CREDIT  
596438  
2 X 5.00

EGLIN BASE EXCH/AAFEES  
CS/BOAT SHOW  
600563  
3 X 5.75

# Operation Thursday: Air Commandos get their start

by Jamie Haig  
Contractor

Sixty-two years ago, the forerunner of the 16th Special Operations Wing got a fast start in making history.

On March 5, 1944, the U.S. Army Air Forces top secret program, Project 9, went into action.

According to the study "Operation Thursday - Birth of the Air Commandos" - written by Herbert Mason Jr., Air Force Special Operations Command historian and former historians, Staff Sgt. Randy Bergeron and Tech. Sgt. James Renfrow Jr. - Operation Thursday was the code name of the first-ever U.S. military air invasion. The mission was to drop men, equipment, mules and supplies behind enemy lines in support of British commandos fighting against the Japanese in World War II.

The British were having problems with the Japanese in the China-Burma-India theater of operations. Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold met with British Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten in August 1943 to discuss possible American air support of the British commando expeditions.

At the end of the meeting, General Arnold asked Lt. Col. Philip Cochran and Lt. Col. John Alison to come up with a self-reliant force in support of British Brig. Gen. Orde Wingate and his 'Chindits' for long-range penetrations into Burma.

General Arnold had envisioned a special air unit that would transport forces into northern Burma, land in a jungle clearing and build an airstrip. From there, other planes could bring in troops and supplies to create a stronghold from which to attack the Japanese.

His vision became reality.

Three sites were selected and given code names Piccadilly, Broadway and Chowringhee. The sites were chosen because they were in inaccessible areas, better to avoid Japanese ground troops and airplanes since the sorties were to be flown at night.

Colonels Alison and Cochran contemplated the type of aircraft that would be needed for this incursion. The Chindits used pack mules to carry equipment and supplies in the jungles, but mules couldn't be parachuted. The colonels came up with the idea to use cargo gliders, which could hold 4,000 pounds of equipment, towed by C-47s.

The plan was relatively simple.

The first wave of gliders was to land troops to secure the area. A second wave would land more troops,

## 1st Air Commando Group USAAF 'firsts'

- Air unit designed to support ground units
- Composite air unit
- Air unit employed with total autonomy
- Aerial invasion into enemy territory
- Night time heavy glider assault landing
- Night combat glider recovery
- Glider airlift of large animals
- Major employment of light airplanes in combat
- Air unit to employ helicopters
- Rescue by combat helicopter
- Firing of rockets from aircraft in combat

American engineers and equipment to build an airstrip. Once the airfields were constructed, the C-47s could bring in the remaining troops, supplies and equipment needed.

But, the operation needed the right men to complete the task.

Colonels Alison and Cochran were allowed to recruit anyone they wanted, so they chose experienced pilots and senior enlisted men. Most of the recruits possessed more than one skill.

When Colonel Alison had everyone assembled in the training center, he told them he needed volunteers for a dangerous job and he couldn't tell them what the mission was or where they were going - only that it would be very hazardous.

The response was so overwhelming that he had to turn people away. With the exception of Alison and Cochran, all 523 men in the special unit were volunteers.

It took months of intense training and planning to get the operation ready.

The day of the first launch, a reconnaissance plane was sent out to photograph the three sites. The photographs showed that Piccadilly had been blocked with tree trunks covering the landing area.

Unsure whether the site had been discovered by the Japanese, they aborted the use of Piccadilly. Broadway still showed clear, so all 80 gliders were directed there.

Before the mission started, Colonel Cochran told the British-American forces "Nothing you've ever done, nothing you're ever going to do, counts now. Only the next few hours. Tonight you are going to find your souls."

At 6:12 p.m., the first two heavily-

loaded gliders lifted off behind the C-47s. Colonel Alison was a pilot in one of the first gliders.

They arrived over the landing area and it looked different than in the aerial photos. The area was obstructed with various debris, some trees and holes.

Since only two radio sets were used that first night, and only to transmit the code words that would abort or continue the mission, the incoming pilots couldn't be forewarned of the dangers.

When the gliders landed, they were to be pushed out of the way of the next incoming aircraft. Due to the problems with the landing site, several gliders did crash, making it impossible to move them.

Colonel Alison finally radioed the abort code which enabled Colonel Cochran to recall the remaining gliders to base.

At dawn, Colonel Alison performed a battle damage assessment. Examining the wreckage from the gliders, he determined that while only three gliders were intact, the rest were repairable.

Colonel Alison radioed back to base to advise Colonel Cochran of the situation.

Since the site hadn't been attacked, as the code word had indicated, Colonel Cochran sent in light planes to evacuate the wounded.

Construction of the landing strip began immediately even though the commander of the construction unit was one of 23 men killed the previous night.

The engineers employed every available man and built the landing strip. That evening, another wave of six planes took off for Broadway and by the end of the evening, 55 of the C-

47s had reached the site and more than 100 sorties had been flown.

On March 6-7, 12 gliders were flown to the second site, Chowringhee, to set up the landing strip.

The glider containing the bulldozer had crashed and another one from the Broadway site had to be flown in.

Upon completion of the landing strip at Chowringhee, General Wingate visited both of the areas. He was concerned about the location of Chowringhee in relation to the enemy. He ceased further operations from this location, ordering that all flights go through Broadway. The day after the site was abandoned - the Japanese had discovered and destroyed Chowringhee.

By March 11, 9,052 troops, 175 horses, 1,283 mules and 509,083 pounds of supplies had been delivered successfully.

After six days and nights, Operation Thursday officially ended as planned and Project 9 officially became the 1st Air Commandos Group.

In less than a week, two British long-range patrol units were deep behind enemy lines without the knowledge of the Japanese. That was the beginning of the end for the Japanese communication lines and supplies.

By creating the 1st Air Commandos Group, General Arnold showed American air power in a new light.

One British commander stated "Please be assured that we will go with your boys any place, any time, anywhere."

The 1st Air Commando Group was the 'first' in several areas of military thinking and that practice continues today.



Courtesy photograph

A reluctant mule is pushed up the ramp of the glider heading to the Broadway site. Pack mules and horses were used for transportation of men and equipment in the jungles of Burma during World War II.



# Military

## USAFSOS courses

A Cross-Cultural Communications Course will convene April 10-14 at the USAF Special Operations School. The course is designed for personnel preparing to live or deploy overseas, who work with international military personnel, and those with a professional or analytical interest in international studies. For more information, call Capt. Apryl Cymbal at 884-4472 or Joyce Weber at 884-4731.

The Sub-Saharan Africa Orientation Course will convene April 10-14. This course is designed for personnel preparing to live in or deploy to the sub-Saharan Africa region. For more information, call Capt. Paul Saskiewicz at 884-6793.

Also, the Middle East Orientation Course will convene March 20-24. This course is designed for personnel preparing to live in or deploy to the Middle East, who work with individuals from this region or have a professional or analytical interest in this area. Spouses are welcome to attend on a space-available basis. For more information, call Maj. Don Palmer at 884-7988.

Additionally, information on all three courses is also available at <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou>.

## Deployment briefs

A pre-deployment processing briefing is held at 8 a.m. every Wednesday in the Deployment Control Center. Personnel will receive deployment checklists, mobility bags, and required finance, personnel readiness unit and medical group briefings. Post-deployment processing begins at 8 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the DCC. People will be able to speak with representatives from PRU, mobility bags, the 16th Medical Group and finance. For more information, call your unit deployment manager.

## HARM hours

The new Host Aviation Resource Management office hours are 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday and Friday closed on wing training days. For more information, call 884-4528.

## EOD training

Explosive Ordnance Disposal will conduct unexploded ordnance reconnaissance and post-attack reconnaissance training 1-3 p.m. Wednesday and May 24, and 8-10 a.m. April 12 and May 10 in the base theater. Review pages 126-138 of the Airman's Manual before training, and bring it with you to the class. For more information, call 884-7193.



Photograph by Jamie Haig

## Mardi Gras

The Hurlburt Field Honor Guard led the way in the annual Navarre Mardi Gras Parade Feb. 25

## Munitions storage

The munitions storage area will be closed March 13-24 for the semi-annual inventory. Emergency issue requests must be approved by the 16th Maintenance Group commander and coordinated through munitions control by calling 884-2011. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kevin Cooke at 884-6687 or Tech. Sgt. Anna Ard at 884-2747.

## Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will be closed Monday for training and will re-open Tuesday at normal business hours. For more information, call Maj. Beth Deaton at 881-5231.

## Legal assistance

The 16th Special Operations Wing Legal office has new legal assistance hours. Wills and general legal advice will be available at 8-10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays for walk-ins. Appointments are available 1-4 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call 884-7821.

## Facility closures

The Commando and Riptide Fitness Centers will be closed until Thursday in support of the base-wide exercise. This will not affect the dining facilities.

# Community

## Heritage dinner

The 720th Special Tactics Group will hold the second annual Battlefield Airman Heritage Dinner at 5 p.m. Thursday in the Emerald Coast Conference Center. Guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. Robert Holmes, Air Force Security Forces and Force Protection director, and the only special tactics officers to reach brigadier general. Tickets are \$25 and attire is mess dress/semi-formal for military and suit and tie or formal wear for civil-

ians. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Shannon Goodwin at 884-2108.

## Relay For Life

The Navarre Relay For Life is having a rummage sale 7 a.m. – noon March 11 in the Navarre AmSouth Bank parking lot. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more information, call 244-3813.

## Summer hire

Hurlburt Field will sponsor a summer hire program for high school and college students. These temporary clerical and lifeguard positions are for students who will be 16 years old by May 29. Application packages are available in the Hurlburt Field Civilian Personnel Office, building 90210, room 135. For more information, call 884-4939 or 884-5112.

## Flea market

The Air Force Enlisted Village is hosting a Flea Market/Trinkets and Treasures sale 8 a.m. to noon Saturday in the Bob Hope Village Community Center.

Outside vendors are welcome; space and tables are \$20. The community center is located at 30 Holly Ave. in Shalimar. For more information, call Becky Brice-Nash at 651-2635.

## Base tax center

The base tax center is open in building 90332 and is available to assist people with free tax preparations until April 15. This service is on an appointment-only basis. For an appointment, call 884-7542.

## Career mapping

A class assisting in career and college planning will be held 1-4 p.m. Monday in the family support center.

The class is designed to assist transitioning members using interactive exercises and tools to aid in a long-term goal and civilian career choice. For more information, call 884-5441.

## At the movies

Prices are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children age 6 and older. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

### Base theater – 884-7648

**Friday – The Last Holiday (PG-13)** After being diagnosed with a fatal disease, a shy sales clerk goes on a European vacation to live out the rest of her life. With nothing to lose, her behavior becomes more irreverent and outrageous each day, only to find out later she was misdiagnosed.

**Saturday – Hostel (R)** Two adventurous American college buddies, Paxton and Josh, backpack through Europe eager to make quintessentially hazy travel memories with new friend Oli, an Icelandic they've met. Paxton and Josh are lured by a fellow traveler to what's described as a nirvana for American backpackers – a particular hostel in an out-of-the-way Slovakian town stocked with Eastern European women.

**Sunday – The Last Holiday (PG-13)** After being diagnosed with a fatal disease, a shy sales clerk goes on a European vacation to live out the rest of her life. With nothing to lose, her behavior becomes more irreverent and outrageous each day, only to find out later she was misdiagnosed.

*(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone number is provided for patrons to confirm dates.)*

## Base chapel

### Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education: September – May

### Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)

11:30 a.m.

(Contemporary worship)

Religious Education:

August – May

Youth and

Singles groups

available



### Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumua: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795.

## Airmen Against Drunk Driving

For a free, confidential ride home, call AADD at 884-8844. Don't drink and drive.

## 24-hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline:

Hurlburt Field – 884-6322

Air Force – (800) 538-8429

Department of Defense – (800) 424-9098

## Hearts Apart

Hearts Apart will meet at noon Thursday family support center for a "Red Hat" luncheon. For reservations, call 884-5441.

## Base map requests

The 16th Civil Engineer Squadron drafting section is offering an easier way to request copies of base maps and floor plans for your office. Log onto <https://geobase.hurlburt.af.mil> and select the "request map" quick link. For more information, call Jesus Ortega at 884-4546 or Tech. Sgt. Kim Welch at 884-3760.

## Chiefs' group scholarships

The Hurlburt Field Chiefs' Group sponsors scholarships for seniors who attend high school in Escambia, Santa Rosa or Okaloosa counties and are dependants of active-duty or retired enlisted members. Applications are available from high school guidance offices. Deadline to apply is April 1.

For more information, call 884-5885 or e-mail [peter.christofferson.ctr@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:peter.christofferson.ctr@hurlburt.af.mil).

## Résumé workshop

A résumé writing workshop will be held 1-3 p.m. Monday in the family support center. The workshop will cover how to translate skills and develop the résumé. Various examples of cover and thank-you letters will be provided. For more information, call 884-5441.

## Commando Connection

This mandatory briefing for newcomers will be held at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday in the base theater. The brief covers base-required material. Local law

enforcement officials also cover regulations concerning this area.

## Bundles for Babies

The Bundles for Babies class will meet 9-11:30 a.m. March 15 in the family support center. Guests will learn about the developmental stages of an infant, communication and bonding skills, budgeting information and more. Each family receives a bundle for baby with 11 items in a tote bag.

## Transition assistance

The Transition Assistance Program seminar is a three-day workshop being held 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and March 21-23 in the family support center. The program helps separating and retiring military members and their families transition into the civilian sector. Facilitators cover career decisions, job applications, job interviews, personal appearance, guidance and support for the transitioning member. For more information, call 884-5441.

## Free child care

The next "Give Parents a Break" will be held 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. March 11 in the family support center. Free child care is provided for eligible families with children 6 months to 12 years old. The program is for qualified spouses of deployed or remote active-duty members or for emergency situations and is sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society. For more information, call 884-5441.

## Toastmasters club

The Hurlburt Field Toastmasters club has regular meetings noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in Clas-

sroom J in the education center. Toastmasters can help individuals improve and develop their speaking, listening and leadership skills through a supportive learning environment. For more information, call Kevin Shavnore at 884-2340 or visit <http://hurlburt.freetoasthost.org>.

## Scholarship

The Society of American Military Engineers Emerald Coast Post will award five \$1,000 scholarships to engineering or architecture students. Scholarships are open to high school seniors and college students who are interested in or currently studying engineering, or architecture-related fields. Students must be a resident of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa or Walton counties. Applications must be postmarked by Mar. 31. For more information, visit <http://posts.same.org/emerald/>.

# Classes

## Spring registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Spring B registration starts Monday for seniors and graduate students only. Registration for all others starts Tuesday and runs through March 17. The Spring B term runs March 20 – May 21. For more information, call 581-2106, or visit [www.erau.edu/fortwaltonbeach](http://www.erau.edu/fortwaltonbeach) to view the schedule of classes online.

## OWC fast track

Enrollment is open at Okaloosa-Walton College for an eight-week fast track term beginnings Monday. For more information, call the OWC Hurlburt Field office at 884-6296.

USA DISCOUNTERS, LTD.  
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WHITWORTH BUILDERS INC  
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Photograph by Staff Sgt. Tamara Rosa

Participants in the Fit Eagle challenge do sit-ups.

# Fit Eagle

## 720th OSS #1 wins the overall fitness competition

### Overall winners

First place	Second place	Third place
720th Operations Support Squadron #1	4th Special Operations Squadron	720 OSS #2
Kenneth Rodriguez	Robert Monroe	Michael Ramos
Spencer Cocanour	Jim Rodriguez	Trevor Rosenberg
Michael Christie	Tim Hood	Leon Cover
Mary Smith	Anamarie Ortega	Jen Smart
Mary Schierholtz	Jamie Fredrickson	Jesenia Jimenez

## In the bleachers

### Softball tournament

The Commando Invitational Racquetball Tournament will be held March 18-19 at the Aderholt Fitness Center. The tournament is open to Department of Defense identification-card holders and their sponsored guest. Tournament divisions for men and women include singles and doubles with open, advanced, intermediate and beginner levels. Pick up entry forms at any Hurlburt Field fitness center, or register online <http://active.com/moresports/racquetball>. For more information, call 884-6884.

### Softball tournament

The third annual Commando Softball Preseason Intramural Tournament will be held March 18 at the base softball fields. The entry fee is \$125 for each team providing their own .44/.47 cor ball. The tournament will be double elimination following ASA intramural rules. The entry deadline is March 15. For more information call Chuck Shepard at 884-3656 or Scott Bowen at 884-7421.

### Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society Emerald Coast Area is recruiting teams to participate in Relay For Life – a unique community event that allows individuals from all walks of life to join in the fight against cancer. This year's Navarre Relay For Life will take place April 7-8 at Navarre High School. The kick-off celebration will be held Tuesday. For more information, call 244-3813.

### Rugby season

Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base are looking for players for Rugby season. For more information call Lt. Col. John Colletta at 882-2191.

### Paintball tournament

The 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron Ravens will hold a paintball tournament April 7-8 for the first 30 teams to sign up. The double-elimination tournament will follow speed ball rules. Field paint use is a must. Cost is \$100 for every five-man team. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Adrian Getzlaff at 882-0709 or Senior Airman Robert O'Bannon at 882-0710.

### Volunteer coaches

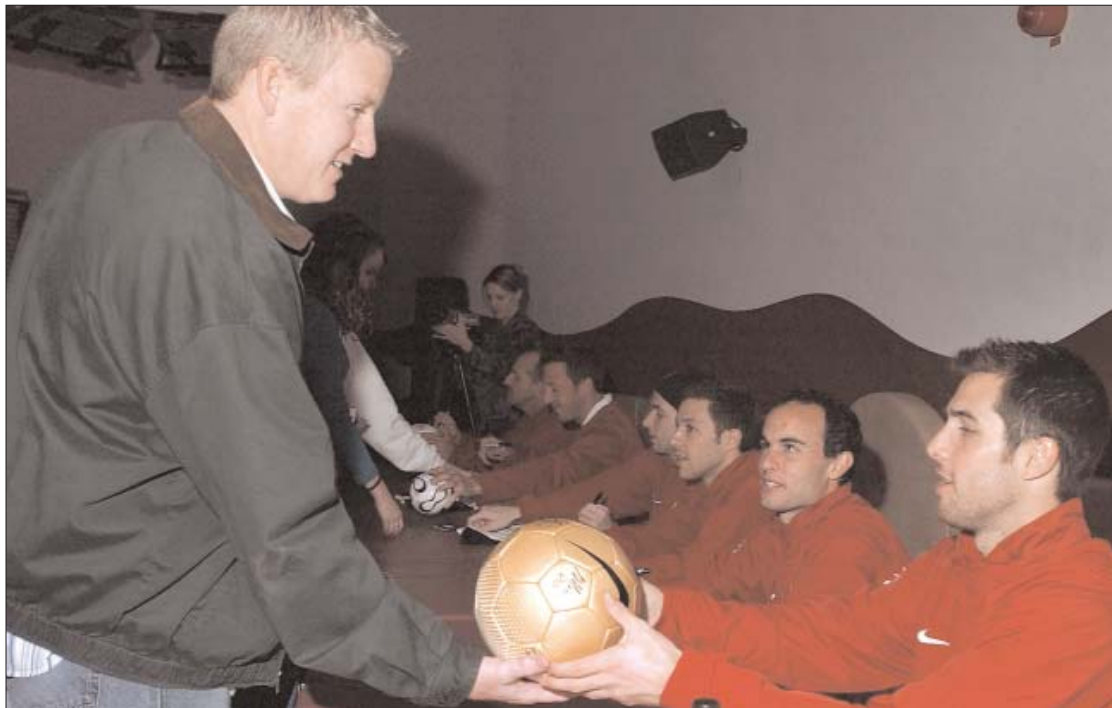
The youth center is looking for volunteer coaches for youth baseball and girls softball teams. Application packages are available at the youth center. For more information, call 884-6355.

### Facility closures

The Commando and Riptide Fitness Centers will be closed until Thursday in support of the base-wide exercise. This will not affect the dining facilities.

### Sports information

For more information about intramural sports or standings, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.



Photograph by Senior Airman Christopher Willis

## U.S. Men's National Soccer Team at Ramstein

Staff Sgt. Larry Way gets an autograph from U.S. Men's National Soccer Team defender Carlos Bocanegra at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Monday. The team also held a pep rally for fans Feb. 28.